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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER IN MONTANA,

The State Health Officer of Montana reported that fourteen cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever were notified in the State of Montana during the month of May, 1917. The distribution of the cases by counties is shown in the table on page 1044.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

PREVALENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION DURING 1916.

The year 1916 was one characterized by an unusual prevalence of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) throughout the United States. In many localities the disease became epidemic. Poliomyelitis has been with us for several decades, occasional cases being reported here and there throughout the country during all months of the year. There have usually been more cases in the summer than in the winter months.

The principal epidemic area last year comprised northern New Jersey, southeastern New York, and most of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Special interest in the disease was aroused about the 1st of July by its unusual prevalence in New York City.

The New York City epidemic began about the middle of June. Early in July increasing numbers of cases were being reported in Newark and Jersey City, N. J., and neighboring communities. By July 15 the disease was on the increase in Philadelphia, Pa.; Bridgeport, Conn.; Camden, N. J.; and Toledo, Ohio. By the 1st of August cases were being reported in Baltimore, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Chicago, Ill.; St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn.; Providence, R. I.; Syracuse, N. Y.; and Trenton, N. J. The disease was at its height in July, August, and September. In December, after the disease had subsided elsewhere, an outbreak developed in the northeastern part of West Virginia with foci at Elkins, Grafton, and Fairmont.